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P 301225Z DEC 09 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8068
INFO RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 0002
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0246
RUEHAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 0071
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0116
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0778
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0643
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 0001
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 6587
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1084
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY 0117
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 0150
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY 0079
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1570
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY 0139
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY 0057
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0452
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0002
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1012
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0249
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0564
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 3450
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 4421
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1651
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY 0324
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 000794

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/IR, CA, P, AND NSC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/29/2019

TAGS: [CASC](#) [IR](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PROP](#) [PTER](#) [NO](#)

SUBJECT: NORWAY RESPONDS TO AMCIT DEMARCHE; ASSESSES IRAN
SITUATION

REF: A. STATE 129480

[1](#)B. OSLO 569

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission James T. Heg for reasons 1.4(b)
and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) On December 29, Deputy Chief of Mission James T. Heg, accompanied by Poleconoff, met with Aud-Marit Wiig, Director General of Geographic Bureaus and International Development, as well as Torunn Viste, Assistant Director General in charge of Mid-East Affairs, both at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), to discuss reftel demarche. Wiig said that she would ask the Norwegian Ambassador in Tehran (currently in Norway) to take up our concerns over the six Americans unjustly held in Iran, and will also "consider" raising the issue with the Iranian Charge d'Affaires here in Oslo. Wiig said that Norway was aware of the cases of the six Americans, as the Embassy has raised the issue in prior discussions with the MFA (see ref b).

THE NORWEGIAN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN IRAN

[1](#)2. (C) Wiig said that Norway is a "keen observer" of the human rights situation in Iran, and often brings up issues with the Iranian government, specifically the execution of minors. She stated that the GON often has trouble getting access to senior Iranian officials when they know that the purpose of the discussion will be to bring up human rights issues. She noted (and emboffs confirm) that the issue of the treatment of Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi--harassment of her family and most recently, arrest of her sister--has especially troubled the GON and has been

widely covered in Norwegian media, and has been brought up directly with the Iranians by the GON.

13. (C) When asked what the GON thought of the most recent unrest in Iran, Viste said initially that she had been "surprised" that people were willing to take such high personal risks by protesting after the brutal repression that had occurred in the aftermath of the elections. Viste said that people would run even higher risks in future protests, as the Ashura holiday had partially restrained the GOI. She said that the fact that the authorities were preventing a funeral of presidential candidate Moussavi's nephew, after he was killed accidentally (according to Viste) in a protest, could itself become another rallying point of the opposition--such is the tense situation on the ground according to the Norwegian Embassy in Tehran. Wiig provided us with a statement, issued December 28, by Foreign Minister Stoere. Stoere's comments were as follows:

"Norway condemns the use of violence against the demonstrators, and is concerned about the reported arrests of members of the opposition, human rights activists and journalists.

Iran has undertaken to respect freedom of assembly and expression. It is also most regrettable that foreign journalists are not allowed to cover the demonstrations.

We urge the Iranian authorities to halt the use of violence and political arrests immediately. All those who are being

unlawfully detained must be released." End Statement by FM Stoere.

WHITE